

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method of testing a video server for a video-on-demand system; said method including the steps of:
  - displaying, on a visual monitor connected to a computer, a set of buttons for selecting one of several simulated control terminals on said video-on-demand system and for selecting one of several VCR-like commands;
  - choosing one particular simulated control terminal and one particular VCR-like command by pointing a cursor and clicking, via a mouse, on particular buttons that are displayed;
  - generating output signals, from said computer in response to said choosing step, which represent said one particular VCR-like command being sent from said one particular simulated control terminal; and,
  - coupling said output signals to said video server for processing therein.
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2. A method according to claim 1 wherein said choosing step includes a first substep of choosing said one particular simulated control terminal, followed by a second substep of choosing said one particular VCR-like command; and wherein, said generating step occurs automatically in response to said second substep.

3. A method according to claim 2 and further including the step of incorporating additional VCR-like commands, from said one particular simulated control terminal, into said output signals from said computer by repeating said second substep without said first substep, once for each additional command.

4. A method according to claim 3 wherein said first substep is performed by clicking via said mouse on buttons which sequentially change an identifier, on said monitor, for all of said simulated control terminals until said one particular simulated control terminal is identified.

5. A method according to claim 1 wherein said output signals are passed, by said coupling step, directly to said video server.

6. A method according to claim 1 wherein said output signals are passed, by said coupling step, through a signal transformer which performs predetermined transformations on said output signals and sends the results to said video server.

7. A method according to claim 1 wherein said displaying step displays buttons on said monitor for choosing a movie as well as playing, pausing, skipping forward, skipping backward, stopping, and unloading the  
5 selected movie.

8. A method according to claim 1 wherein said displaying step displays buttons on said monitor for choosing said one particular simulated control terminal from a set of at least one-hundred simulated control  
5 terminals.

9. An electronic storage media, readable by a computer, which stores a program that directs said computer to perform a process which includes the steps of:

5 displaying, on a visual monitor connected to said computer, a set of buttons for selecting one of several simulated control terminals on a video-on-demand system and for selecting one of several VCR-like commands;

10 sensing when an operator of said computer has chosen one particular simulated control terminal and one particular VCR-like command by pointing a cursor and clicking, via a mouse, on particular buttons that are displayed; and,

15 generating output signals, from said computer in response to said sensing step, which represent said one particular VCR-like command being sent from said one particular simulated control terminal.

10. An electronic storage media according to  
claim 9 wherein, during said sensing step, said program  
directs said computer to first sense said one particular  
simulated control terminal that was chosen; and  
5 thereafter, said program directs said computer to  
automatically generate said output signals in response to  
said one particular VCR-like command being chosen.

11. An electronic storage media according to  
claim 10 wherein said program further directs said  
computer to incorporate additional VCR-like commands,  
from said one particular simulated control terminal, into  
5 said output signals if immediately after said one  
particular VCR-like command is chosen, said operator  
clicks via said mouse on buttons in said display which  
choose said additional VCR-like commands.